Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

President's Note

Michael Redlich, ACGNJ

This year, the 38th annual Trenton Computer Festival (TCF) will take place on Saturday, March 16 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. (With the TCF IT Professional Conference being held on Friday, March 15 from 8:30am to 5:00pm). The venue will once-again be at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ.

This will be year #2 in which TCF has gone from a Saturday/Sunday event to only one weekend day, Saturday. This was due to ever-increasing costs relative to the income realized from running such a show. As you may know, computer shows have seen a decline in attendance over the past 20-or-so years.

However, what makes this show different from others is the suite of talks that are available for a modest $10.00 price-of-admission. I always say there's something for everyone at TCF as the talks aren't just for tech-savvy or IT professionals. This year, there are tracks on Microsoft, Robotics, Apple, Games, among others. I will be conducting a series of talks in my own track, Object Oriented Programming (OOP) University which includes a "Hands-On Java" workshop.

ACGNJ

http://www.acgnj.org

Founded 1975

ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (*www.acgnj.org*).

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Feb 26, 7:00 PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, March 1. 8:00 PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, March 4, 8:00 PM
Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

NJ Gamers: Friday, March 8, **6**:00 PM
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Layman's Forum: Monday, March 11, 8:00 PM
Matt Skoda (som359 (at) aol.com)

Java: Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 PM
Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Investing: Thursday, March 14, 8:00 PM
Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

Window Pains: CANCELED!!!
due to its proximity to TCF.

Trenton Computer Festival: Sat, Mar 16, 9AM-5PM
(See the President's Note on the left).

Firefox: Monday, March 18, 7:30 PM
David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, March 19, 7:30 PM
Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Apr 2, 7:00 PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on back page. 🖥

In This Issue

Officers, Directors and Leaders

President	Michael Redlich	(908) 246-0410	Director Emeritus	Sol Libes	(609) 520-9024
Vice President	Wendy Bell		Through 2013	Gregg McCarthy	
Treasurer	Malthi Masurekar	(732) 560-1534		John Raff	(973) 992-9002
Secretary	Brenda Bell			Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
Past President	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070		(Open)	
			Through 2014	Bob Hawes	
Special Interest Groups				David McRitchie	
C Languages	Bruce Arnold	(908) 735-7898		Michael Reagan	
Firefox	David McRitchie			(Open)	
Genealogy	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681	**Standing Committees**		
Hardware	Mike Reagan		APCUG Rep.	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
Investing	Jim Cooper		Facilities	John Raff	(973) 992-9002
Java	Michael Redlich	(908) 246-0410	Financial	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070
Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842	Historian	Lenny Thomas	
LUNICS	Andreas Meyer		Membership	Bob Hawes	
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell		Newsletter	Bob Hawes	
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy		Publicity	Gregg McCarthy	
WebDev	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070	Trenton Computer Fest	Mike Redlich	(908) 246-0410
Window Pains	John Raff	(973) 992-9002	Vendor Liaison	Arnold Milstein	(908) 753-8036
			Webmaster	John Raff	(973) 992-9002

ACGNJ News

Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm**. Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, $5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) $150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) $115, half-page $85, one-third $57, quarter $50, eighth $30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to *membership@acgnj.org* or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year $25, 2 years $40, 3 years $55. Student: 1 year $20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year $20, 3 years $45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (*http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html*).

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Frank O'Brien

The keynote speaker at TCF this year is Frank O'Brien, the Solar System's Ambassador for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His keynote is entitled, "Roving Robots on Mars: The Journey of Curiosity."

The exploration of Mars has been underway for almost 50 years and a wealth of knowledge has been obtained from the Red Planet thanks in great part to Mars roving robots. The most recent and the most advanced, the Curiosity Robotic Rover has been on the surface since August, 2012 and has already made important discoveries. This talk will briefly discuss the history of robots on Mars and then focus on Curiosity's two year mission and the incredible technologies used to deliver the spacecraft to the surface. Experiments and their results will be presented as well as future plans and goals. Finally, upcoming missions, including the recently announced rover robot scheduled for launch in 2020 will be presented.

This will be year #8 for the TCF IT Professional Conference that is held on the Friday before normal TCF activities. I have spoken at this conference for the first seven years and I am happy to announce that my "Getting Started with Meteor" talk has been selected for 2013.

I hope you will consider attending or even volunteering at TCF 2013. All you need to know about TCF can be found at *http://www.tcf-nj.org*. I would also encourage you to tell all your friends! Computers and the Internet are continuing to evolve at a rapid pace. Smartphone? Tablet? Desktop? There will be talks and demonstrations by experts in all of these fields to help get everyone up to speed. 🖳

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting - Friday, March 1st, 8 to 10 PM
Speaker: Barry Burd
Topic: Android 101 Development

Window Pains Meeting - Friday, March 15th
CANCELED!!!
due to its proximity to TCF.

News Flash: At the February 26th Board of Directors Meeting, Bob Hawes was appointed to fill one of our vacant Director slots. This leaves two other Director positions *still* open. Any volunteers?

Purloined Letters
Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Recently, I produced some PDF files containing a *really* weird defect. Now, PDF (Portable Document Format) was conceived by Adobe, Inc. in 1991, and version 1 was released in 1993. Wikipedia (The Free Encyclopedia) describes PDF as "a file format used to represent documents in a manner independent of application software, hardware, and operating systems". I don't know about you, but I'd interpret this statement to mean that a file produced on one computer running one operating system should appear identical when viewed on another computer running another operating system. Unfortunately for all computer users everywhere, I've now got incontrovertible (and readily repeatable) proof that

this is *NOT* true.

Unfortunately for readers of *this* particular article, before we can go into further details about that proof, we need some background information. So let's start at the beginning: This month, I've taken my title from a genuine historic literary masterpiece. *The Purloined Letter* by Edgar Allan Poe is a short story originally published in 1844. In addition to being a classic in its own right, it's considered to be an important early forerunner of the modern detective story. Now, like Poe, I've got a mysterious tale to tell you; but first, more background.

The word "purloined" means "stolen" or "taken by

stealth". Recently, a character (the uppercase letter "N") has been disappearing from newsletter PDF files that I've created; but not all of the "N"s, and not all of the time, either. However, before I can clearly explain this phenomenon, I need to give you some personal details about my recent past. In other words: Even more background.

2012 was my first year as full time ACGNJ Newsletter Editor, and also the first year that I had a long-term, serious medical problem. While *not* life threatening, my problem required *two* operations on my left foot. I had the second operation in mid-October; but it's the kind that needs at least a six month recovery period. As a result, I was relegated to a convalescent facility for a *long* time, and I didn't get home to my beloved Linux computers until well into 2013. Because I knew ahead of time that I would be confined away from home for several months, I was able to borrow a laptop computer from a friend for the duration. Unhappily for me (as I've mentioned in previous articles), it came equipped with Windows Vista. (Horrors!)

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Regular, Arial Bold, Arial Italic, and Arial Bold Italic. The same goes for Times New Roman. When you highlight some text and then click on the Bold and/or Italic button(s) at the top of your word processor screen, you're *not* just changing an attribute of those particular characters. You're temporarily switching to a *completely differen*t font. Why is this distinction important? Because it's *only one character* (the uppercase letter "N" in the **Times New Roman Bold** font set) that gave me trouble.

At long last, I can fully describe my problem. Working from that Vista laptop, I produced and distributed an October 2012 newsletter. Almost immediately, I got adverse reports from John Raff (our Webmaster) and my brother Glen (my proofreader). Now please understand that I myself *didn't* see anything wrong when viewing my output PDF file on the laptop. (If I had, I would have tried to fix it before sending it out). Besides, there wasn't anything I could do about it, anyway. So I went ahead and created November and December issues. (I figured that even a messed-up newsletter was

As I've also mentioned before, my preferred desktop publisher is Scribus 1.3.3.13, which I usually run on my main Linux computer at home. However, Scribus also makes versions for several other operating systems; but when I tried to install 1.3.3.13 for Windows on my borrowed laptop, it wouldn't work. So I had to load the Windows version of Scribus 1.4.1 instead. (That's the newer release, which *isn't* backwards compatible, and which I *don't* like). Since I wound up running two pieces of software that I normally would *not* use (Vista and 1.4.1), I suppose I shouldn't be *too* surprised that they got together to stab me in the back. At this point, we're just about ready to describe my problem; but first...

Yet again even more background: Traditionally, the ACGNJ newsletter uses two fonts (Arial and Times New Roman) for just about everything. Arial is used for headlines and for most of the words in our masthead. Times New Roman is used for body text and for the big giant "NEWS" in our masthead. What many people don't realize is, that's actually *eight* fonts. Arial really has *four* versions: Arial

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better than no newsletter at all). On January 3rd, Glen sent me a file of screen shots of the November 2012 issue that he'd taken on his computer. This was the first time that I saw the problem with my own eyes.

I was, in fact, working on the January 2013 issue when my borrowed laptop crashed; and it crashed so thoroughly that it was beyond my power to fix it. (At least while I was in a convalescent facility, anyway). Eventually, with Glen providing transport, I was able to make two "day trips" home to my Linux computers. There, I recreated my aborted January issue from scratch. (All I had to guide me was a test PDF of my first four original pages). In total, it took me fourteen hours to do it. I finished on January 30th, so technically, I got that issue in on time.

So finally, let's see the problem here. Reproduced below are screenshots from the borrowed laptop, my main Linux computer, Glen's computer, and John's computer. Figure 1a and Figure 1b are from the laptop, containing two sections of Page 1 as displayed by Adobe PDF Reader running under Vista. (Showing most of the masthead, and all of the

right hand column paragraph located just above the "In This Issue" box, respectively). Note that everything looks OK. Those two images had been made by me "just in case". Fortunately, like the test PDF mentioned above, I'd backed them up on a USB memory stick, so they weren't lost when the laptop died.

Figures 2a and 2b were taken by me at home on my main computer, showing those same two sections of Page 1 as displayed by the Evince PDF Reader running under Ubuntu Linux. Note that in each case, the single example of a Times New Roman Bold uppercase "N" has completely disappeared. Contrast that with Figures 3a and 3b, viewed on Glen's computer by Adobe Reader running under Windows XP Pro. There, the characters have also disappeared, but an outline of where each *should* have been still remains.

Now we come to the wackiest screenshots reported so far: Figures 4a and 4b, as viewed on John's computer by FoxIt PDF Reader, running under Windows XP SP3. (John says that it also happens when viewed by the latest version of Firefox, which apparently now has its own PDF Reader built right in). Note that in each case, the Bold uppercase "N" has been replaced by a Bold uppercase "Q". To my mind, this is the worst error of the lot, because this time it not only *lost* the correct information, but it's also now conveying the *wrong* information. In this instance, it's obviously a mistake; but I can imagine other situations where it *wouldn't* necessarily be so obvious. In my opinion, the fact that this substitution could have happened *at all* is *totally* unacceptable.

So, exactly what happened? Well, I have a theory, but no proof, Since Scribus 1.4.1 created these PDFs, it must take some of the responsibility; but I'd delegate most of the blame to Microsoft. Because Windows wants to be the Great God of Computing, it insists on controlling the fonts; and the fonts (well one, anyway) are clearly where the problem lies. My theory is that there is something slightly wrong with the uppercase "N" in the Times New Roman Bold font that came with Vista. Somehow, Vista can interpret that character correctly, but different operating systems (even some other versions of

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey **NEWS**
Figure 1a

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Figure 1b

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey **EWS**
Figure 2a

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Figure 2b

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey **☐EWS**
Figure 3a

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, ☐ew Jersey. Directions and map on back page. 💻
Figure 3b

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey **QEWS**
Figure 4a

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, Qew Jersey. Directions and map on back page. 💻
Figure 4b

Windows) just *can't*.

Well, that's it for me. I don't have the proper tools (or, maybe, the intellect) to take this investigation any further. As soon as possible, I'll be making replacement issues of the affected newsletters, and posting them on the web. However, I'll also be saving the defective original October, November and December issues (as well as that partial January test PDF). If anyone wants to do deeper research into this problem, I'll be glad to send them copies. (PDF developers, take note). Otherwise, the only way I can think of to fix this problem is to do what I'd always tell anybody, anyway: *Switch to Linux!*

See you next month. 💻

Staying Connected While Working Remotely

Gabe Goldberg

(destinationz.org) destination.z (at) gabegold.com

Proper tools and processes help organizations overcome stumbling blocks to telecommuting.

While telework and telecommuting—usually just different terms for the same practice—have been discussed widely for years, rarely have they been practiced successfully. In fact, many mainframe-centric companies have had distributed employees for decades, allowing the best experts to support customers worldwide. Still, some organizations and managers steadfastly resist even considering this job-enhancing flexibility, no matter the benefits to them and their employees.

Why? Two main reasons emerge:

1. Explicit or implicit reliance on kindergarten-style management that values "all in their places with bright shiny faces" above matching work environment to real-world requirements and preferences

2. A lack of understanding of modern mainframe connection technologies

Of course, for telework to work, it requires attitudinal and technical accommodation. The larger challenges are sometimes softer issues—cultural and mental—rather than technology problems. Starting with organizational issues, consider the following tips to address cultural and technical stumbling blocks:

Cultural

• Don't improvise. Establish consistent long-term telework policies covering technology and personnel issues in terms of facilities/services provided, costs subsidized, connectivity, security, work hours, office workflow, cross-training and task backup, home/office days balance, salaries, evaluations, promotions, etc.

• Plan and manage telework implementation. For inspiration, read case studies of successful projects. Integrate telework with disaster and business-

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continuity procedures. Periodically assess progress and problems from worker/manager viewpoints.

• Educate employees, clients/customers, suppliers on telework plans and goals. Internally, be clear and objective about who's eligible. Support those not eligible, and don't create disparities between in-office and remote staff.

• Host occasional all-hands team or company-wide virtual meetings, allowing unstructured Q&A with managers/executives, to ensure that everyone has the same correct information. An added benefit is people getting to know colleagues they may never meet or even work with directly.

• Avoid implicit/explicit deprecation of invisible employees. Evaluate results and productivity rather than face time.

• Ensure top-to-bottom compliance with mandated telework procedures. Don't let unfounded claims of team/project uniqueness undermine telework benefits and avoid "studying" telework to death.

• Creatively, fairly and consistently subsidize work-

related employee home-office expenses. These might include added or enhanced Internet connectivity, an extra telephone line or added services.

• Use telework to recruit best-qualified staff without requiring relocation, and to retain key employees who are moving.

• Develop new and flexible management skills to evaluate objectives and output, rather than employee visibility.

• Compensate for distance by formalizing critical but casual hallway and water cooler communication channels.

• Be a good corporate citizen by supporting a greener workforce. In urban areas, increased telework improves traffic and reduces demands on infrastructure, and therefore government spending.

Technical

• Provide enterprise-quality instant messaging, audio and video teleconferencing, integrated home/office telephone, and email services.

• Use reliable VPN allowing split tunneling, so local

network devices, such as printers and file servers, are available while remotely connected.

• Provide network/mainframe session manager to simplify employee logon and reduce impact of connection interruptions. A System z remote computing benefit, of course, is 3270 data stream efficiency.

• Within practical limits, enable BYOD—bring your own device—for maximum employee productivity and flexibility.

• Understand the promise and reality of cloud computing. Evaluate it for linking office and remote staff/resources, enforcing security/backup policies, reducing employee hosted/maintained resources, etc.

For employees looking to work remotely, consider these tips as well:

Technical/Logistical

• Craft supportive workspace with ergonomic furniture, etc. Don't suffer a permanent "temporary" or just good-enough setup.

• Use large or multiple monitors to enhance productivity, perhaps including a docking station or full-size monitor connected to a laptop.

• Create professional voicemail greetings on home and mobile phones.

• Use robust communication/connectivity. A second broadband service will most likely cost less than commuting, and—even if rarely used—it prevents you from being unavailable at critical moments. Such incidents frequently cause peers or managers to grumble about telecommuting.

• Beware using bleeding-edge technology. Home office operation is mission-critical for you and your employer, so it isn't appropriate for experimentation. Consider using a second computer for testing/experimentation.

• Be secure by separating work from personal computing, running and updating quality anti-malware tools, and using appropriate encryption. Follow company computing policies, and don't let others use your work computer.

• Be reliable by using company backup tools

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supplemented by on-site procedures and offsite media.

• Have facility for sending and receiving files—encrypted, of course—that are too large to transmit via email. Examples include YouSendIt or Dropbox.

Mental/Attitudinal

• "Go to work," in whatever way works for you. Shaved/coiffed or not, dressed for success or in pajamas, have your mind 100-percent work-engaged and focused. Resist distractions such as personal email and general news updates. Emphasize to family and friends that working at home does not mean "at leisure."

• Set limits. Working from home doesn't mean being available 24/7. Still, exploit it when inspiration strikes. Highlight how home access allows quick response to critical situations, and working when you might otherwise have taken sick days.

• Above all, don't be invisible, inaccessible or mysterious. Accommodate time-zone issues and publicize predictable work hours with a regular

lunch break. Let colleagues know about absences, and use informative "out-of-office" messages for email, instant messaging and telephone.

• Be flexible about short-notice requirements for office visits.

• Use connectivity to monitor system alerts and check for problems—perhaps on Sunday nights, checking for system misadventures that would make Monday morning a catastrophe.

• Keep your manager informed about projects, status, plans, needs and concerns—especially if your company has few teleworkers. Establish and revisit productivity measures.

• Learn colleagues' and managers' communications preferences and proactively provide information. Send good news as well as gotchas; avoid surprises. Share information, articles, links, pointers, thoughts and feedback. Engage the team by participating in meetings and discussions; emphasize your availability for voice/video teleconferencing. Take leadership opportunities.

• Stay on good terms with the company help desk

and tech/network support staff. Make their lives easier by sharing responsibility for working technology, reporting problems clearly, and assisting in problem resolution.

• Seek occasional face-to-face team encounters and gatherings, especially when new people join. Meeting in person, dining and socializing greatly facilitate collaboration. Understand company/team culture and, of course, politics.

• Anticipate isolation and potential loneliness. Develop professional online and neighborhood/community contacts. Remember that at work, online and offline, you're not really alone.

• If appropriate, log your activities. No matter how productive you are, without seeing you every day, colleagues and managers might forget your contributions. You might even forget them, so a log will facilitate progress/status reports and be useful at reviews.

• Remain current, valuable and employable through continuing education, which is often available online.

• For health and sanity, walk around a bit every hour or two; stay well hydrated.

Working Together

In addition to obvious employer savings, such as reduced office/power/heating/cooling expenses, federal and state tax breaks are sometimes available. Several organizations can help with planning, logistical and financial information for teleworkers, managers and organizations. One such program, Telework!VA, an initiative of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, assists companies in that state.

Ultimately, it's best to structure telework as a partnership benefiting workforce and employer. Success comes from joint objective analysis of personalities and work requirements.

Gabe Goldberg has developed, worked with and written about technology for decades. This article originally appeared on the destinationz.org website.

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Document Your Life with Photo-Graphic Memory
Phil Sorrentino, Member, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
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A photographic memory is probably something we all would like. And, just think, you can have at least the effect of a photographic memory just by using your camera and your computer to document your activities… your life.

It is amazing how much paper we collect along the way. Most of it goes neatly into file folders and then those folders go neatly into multi-draw filing cases or boxes. Before you know it you have multiple multi-draw filing cases in the den, the home office and/or the bedroom closet. Have you ever looked at the pile of paper you have collected over these many years? It's not a pretty picture. Now there are some things that we just have to hang on to, like licenses, automobile registrations, titles of any sort, and certain special papers that might have an emotional or historical attachment. But the rest of the pile might be eliminated or at least pared down. (And how about old tax forms? How many years do you have to keep the paper? Or is an electronic copy good enough for taxes paid 10 years ago?)

What I'm suggesting is that with your computer, and a scanner and a camera, you can probably cut the paper you need to save down to a very manageable size, and even eliminate some of those storage cases. The scanner is really the key here. The camera is for unusually large items, or those things that just can't be copied on a flat-bed scanner. Consider this, review the contents of some of those folders and if you need to know that something occurred, and is relevant, like an award you were given from your last employment. If you have not looked at it since you received it, then you can probably scan it in and throw away the original. I know how difficult this will be for some people, but after a little practice it will get a lot easier. (A very important thing here is that you have adequate "backup" to guarantee that you will never lose the scanned in files. If you don't have adequate backup, which means multiple copies of the data files of the scanned objects, than this is

not going to be a good idea. So before you commit to this, make sure you have a good backup plan in place. Make sure that you can guarantee at least two if not three copies of the scanned in files. The first two copies could be two external or portable disk drives and the third might be on DVD or a flash memory device.) Once the backup plan is in place and you are really using it, the fun begins. Gather your papers, separate the ones that you have to keep and make a pile of those that can be shredded after they are scanned. Do you really need those greeting cards you received 15 years ago?

In order to make sure that you can retrieve any of these "documents", it is good to establish a naming convention before you start to scan the paper documents; after all, it is no use to have all the data if you can't access it quickly. As you collect your scanned documents, you will be creating a database. Two popular ways of organizing your database are 1- by date, and 2- by event. If every file that you want to keep has a name starting with "yyyy-mm-dd" and is followed by a descriptive name, then when the

digital files are put in a digital folder, they will organize in a chronological fashion. yyyy represents the year, like 2011, mm represents the numerical value of the month like 04 for April, and dd represents the day of the month like 01 for April 1. (For some databases only the year and month may be adequate.) Now, when you go looking for a document, all you have to know is the date associated with the item, and you can just look in the chronological order to find it. Let's say that if you scanned in an award that you received in June 1976, then you would look in the area of 1976-06, to find that document. Windows Explorer makes it easy to find scanned documents because it shows a thumbnail photo of the file, while you are searching for the file. This is especially helpful because a scanned file is usually saved as a .jpg file, a picture file.

If you do use this naming convention, then you can organize your folders to represent either years (or groups of years), or events. If you choose to be completely chronological, then the folders will be

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named 1970, 1971, 1972,… you get the idea. Then you could put the 1970s folders into a folder named 1970s, and you could do the same with all other decades. If you choose to organize around events, then the folders might have names like "awards", "house info", "car info", "career",.. – really, any collection of events or things that makes sense to you and any others who will use the database.

Besides your scanned in documents, you can include photos from your digital camera. If you use the same naming convention with your photos, then you can mix them in with the documents and they all will organize in chronological order. Sometimes that makes a lot of sense when you have both pictures and documents that are part of the same event. This combination sometimes helps tell the complete story of the activities of the specific event.

Another way to organize your database is to organize your folders around event; then you might name your folders "birthdays", "anniversaries", "parties", "weddings",… you get this idea too. So these would represent those types of events throughout the years.

The fact that the files are chronologically named means they would organize chronologically inside the folders, making it easy to find a specific event within an event folder. And you can mix the two types of database folders. You could have your basic folders chronologically named, but inside a year you might have a series of events like "a vacation trip to the Grand Canyon" where the pictures from the trip would show what you saw and the documents you collected like maps and brochures from the particular destinations. As long as each file is chronologically named, the files will organize in a way that will make it easy for you to find a specific document, or group of pictures.

Not only do you save storage space, but once your pictures and documents are in your database, they are immediately available because they are literally at your finger tips (if your fingers are on the keyboard). I bet you'll be able to impress your friends how fast you can find those awards you received from your first employer. Of course there are always a few items that just can't be committed

to electronic files and there are always a few pictures of the grandchildren that just must be made into an 8 by 10 for the wall. But, just think, with a lot of those paper documents shredded, and all of your photos committed to digital files, you won't need all of that paper and picture storage. It will probably free up some valuable storage space and maybe you can even make a few bucks by selling those filing cabinets.

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Good Enough
Terry Currier, President, WINNERS – WINdows usERS, CA
Newsletter: The Notepad (www.windowsusers.org) winnersug (at) aol.com

I have an iPad and it's great to help keep the grandkids' interest when we go out to eat, or on long drives in the car. But, for long trips such as when we go to San Diego's Sea World I really did not want to take it. It is big to carry and there is the danger of breakage with such trips. So I have been looking at some of the smaller (and cheaper) tablets. I basically just wanted something I could put some movies on for them and a few games would also help. I saw what I thought would be just right from Buy.com -- a 7" AGPTEK TP10A for $84. It had the Android 4.0 operating system. The processing speed I knew would not be fast, but it could take a micro-SD card up to 32GB. With that I could put lots of movies and

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kids TV shows on it.

So I brought it and have been pretty happy with it so far. I made having this tablet into a show and tell by asking members to bring their tablets for the September meeting. I got to see the Google's Nexus 7" tablet and the Asus with keyboard set up, and one other.

Some of the other things about mine - 1080P HD high definition video display, support for AVI,WMV,MP4,MKV,RM, RMVB, FLV, MOV, and 3GP. It even has HDMI output ability. I brought an HDMI mini cable, hooked it up, and son-of-a-gun it looked great on a 24" TV.

There is not a lot of volume coming from the little speaker in the back so I bought a portable speaker that plugs into the headphone port. It works well and, of course, the tablet can play the usual music formats. With one front 0.3 Mega pixel camera and MIC you can make video calls.

It's listed as having 8GB, but I did look before buying it and knew it would only have about 512MB of free space with the operating system and apps they put on it. First thing of course was to get Angry Birds on it. The grandson loves it.

There is Wi-Fi built-in it, and I've always said the iPad's Wi-Fi is not very good. I took it to a restaurant with free Wi-Fi and the iPad found three available connections. The AGPTEK found eight, including the coffee house across the street.

Remember the low cost of $84. I brought the warranty (it will cover me when I take it on trips) for $13, the Micro-SD card cost $28, a holder cost $30 (a very good padded one), the speaker $9, and finally a HDMI cable was $9. So I've doubled the initial cost, but it is still far cheaper than other tablets, and it suits my needs. And, most important, the grandkids love it!

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The Tip Corner

Bill Sheff, Novice SIG Coordinator, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA
Newsletter: The LVCG Journal (www.lvcg.org) nsheff (at) aol.com

If you notice that your laptop is starting to run sluggishly and pages load slower, along with other general slowness it could be the battery. So before you run out and replace your laptop battery try this trick first.

First, charge your laptop's battery all the way to 100%. After being fully charged, unplug it and let the battery drain. Using the laptop during this period will help it drain more quickly. Once you see that the battery is almost empty, save your work and close any open pages. Then let the laptop shut itself off. Let the dead battery sit for about 5 or 6 hours, or overnight. This will help eliminate any leftover charge the battery may have, and lets the battery start over from zero. After you've let your laptop sit, plug it back in and let it charge all the way to 100% before using it again. This can extend battery life and possibly postpone purchasing a new battery.

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Energy Consumption

Since we started with the battery lets continue with some energy consumption hints for both laptops and PCs.

Conserving laptop battery power or simply managing the energy consumption of any PC can easily be accomplished by making adjustments in Windows Power Options. To access the Power Options you can use Run and type in powercfg.cpt. However in Vista and Win7 run can be skipped by just typing in power options in the Start search. In the Power Options dialog box, the three choices are; Balanced, Power saver, and High performance.

Power saver offers the most conservative use of energy; Balanced combines the Power saver plan and High performance. High performance is the gas guzzler of the three. Other settings options are available at the left. Clicking the Change plan

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settings link opens the Edit Plan Settings dialog box for the selected plan. There, settings can be tweaked to provide the desired mix of effectiveness and efficiency.

In Power Options, you can also control what happens when the lid on a laptop is closed. Just click the Choose what closing the lid does link.

Settings can be individually adjusted for when the laptop is running on battery, or for when it's plugged in. The choices are Do nothing, Sleep, Hibernate, or Shut down. (We discussed these choices in our July 2012 Tip Column). Clicking the 'Change settings that are currently unavailable' link offers the opportunity to change what happens when the computer wakes up.

It is also possible to make more advanced power settings. Be a little cautious here since it is for the more advanced user. Any changes made, can be undone by clicking the Restore default settings for this plan link.

What does a smart phone replace?

I am going to end this month's Tip Corner with a

small list. Since tablets are now appearing like rabbits in a hutch, ready to replace laptops and smart phones with a plethora of apps and lots of battery life, let's take a nostalgic look back at the many things smart phones have replaced.

MP3 Players - When was the last time you carried a digital music player that couldn't do a dozen other things, too?

Portable Game Consoles – Nintendo 3DS and DS as well as the Sony PSP are still selling, but these portable game gadgets seem like relics from an era when people used cell phones strictly to make and receive calls. Today's smartphone, of course, is a gaming juggernaut: App stores for Apple and Android handsets offer tens of thousands of games.

Point-and-Shoot Cameras - The pictures in your smartphone are positioned to match or surpass the photographic prowess of the point-and-shoot cameras.

Personal Video Players - Remember the lineup of portable media players? This capability has also

migrated to the jack-of-all-trades smartphone.

Voice Recorders - "Note to self: Buy jacket with extra pockets to hold voice recorder, PDA, cell phone..." That's a voice memo from a digital recorder, circa 2001. Okay, not really--but the point is that stand-alone voice recorders were yet another digital device to carry around. No wonder they've gone the way of the PDA (see below). Some dirt-cheap recorders still persist, but a smartphone with an app like the free RecForge Free (for Android) or the $2 Voice Record (for iPhone) is the sensible choice for any pocketchallenged gadget lover.

Portable GPS Navigation Devices - Why buy a separate GPS device for your car when your smartphone can perform the same tasks? Portable navigation hardware from major GPS players such as Garmin, Magellan, and TomTom are have grown more powerful and more affordable, but GPS-enabled smartphones deliver similar functionality. Interestingly, GPS vendors may be contributing to the demise of their portable devices by offering apps like Garmin's StreetPilot, which provides turn-by-turn directions for smartphone users. Hey, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

P**ersonal Digital Assistant (PDA)** - A now-classic PalmPilot PDA. It manages your contacts! It has a todo list! It tracks expenses! Yes, the PDA was a handy contrivance back in the day when a 25-pound desktop PC and a 50-pound CRT monitor seemed welded to every workstation. But as cellphones began to acquire PDA capabilities in 2001, it became obvious that the phoneless digital assistant's days were numbered. Today, the term "PDA" sounds as anachronistic as "Pocket PC." Then again, today's smartphones are pocket PCs, aren't they?

Wristwatch - Is a wristwatch a necessity or a fashion accessory? The smartphone has become the 21st Century pocket watch, while the wristwatch has become, well, your father's timepiece. This may change, since new tech-savvy watchmakers have now put the time on the wristband. But the truth is the smart phone gives great time, and dates.

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Paper Maps - When's the last time you bought a paper map? Do you still use them? A smartphone devotee may unfold a map every now and then, but only as a navigational tool of last resort. Mobile map apps from Google, MapQuest, and Bing provide directions, satellite images, and search tools that paper can't match. But it's wise to keep a paper map on hand as a backup, especially if you're driving in an area where wireless signals are weak. And GPS mapping tools have been known to give bad directions every once in a while.

411 Directory Assistance - Google Mobile's Voice Search. A Newspaper article once lamented the lost art of the phone call, but what about the 411 call? A savvy smartphone user is more likely to access free online tools such as Google's voice search than to make a traditional directory-assistance call. But old habits die hard, however.

According to Snopes.com from October 2010, U.S. consumers were still placing about 6 billion calls to 411 services per year, even though phone companies had switched to charging $1 or more per call. Nevertheless, the directory assistance of the future seems likely to be automated, online, and (maybe) free. And the prologue: All of this will be included in the tablets coming out today. Will we have to widen our pockets or start carrying man-purses?

But one more thing you might want to carry with your smart phone. A spare battery. I have just finished testing how long my extra battery lasts since last charging. Well, it has been over a two weeks now and the battery is still over 60% charged.

So if you listen to a lot of music on your smart phone, it might not be a bad idea to have a charged battery in your pocket just in case. And yes they are very cheap on ebay.com. Play a lot of music, make a lot of calls and then switch. A really good assist when you are on the road and can't plug in to a charger.

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SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)
Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ⌨

Main Meeting
Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ⌨

Layman's Forum
Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ⌨

Hardware Workshop
Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in he back room, most of our time was spent in talking about ast experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ⌨

Java
Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)
http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ⌨

Mobile Devices
Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ⌨

WebDev
Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM).

Investment Software
Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM).

NJ Gamers
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)
http://www.NJGamers.com
www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!
BYOC - Bring your own computer.
BYOF - Bring your own food.
And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...
BYO chair!

Firefox
David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM).

C/C++ Programming
Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)
http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). *No* meetings in July or August.
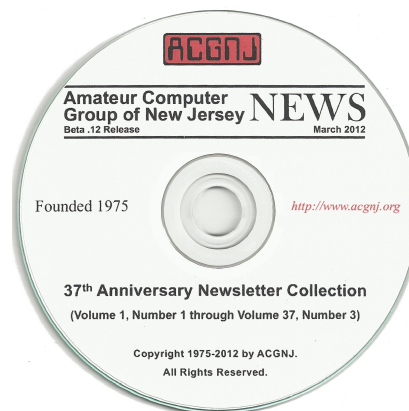
Window Pains
John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July or August.

37ᵗʰ Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale

Back Issues *Still* Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).
1976: January.
1984: August.
1985: June, July, August, September.

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942

Discount Computer Magazine Price List
As described by the DealsGuy

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
Computer Games	$10.95	20.95	29.95
Computer Gaming World	14.95	28.95	41.95
Computer Shopper1	16.97	32.95	47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	15.95	30.95	
Mac Addict	10.97		
Mac Home Journal	15.97	29.97	
Mac World	12.95		
Maximum PC	9.95	18.95	27.95
Microsoft System Journal	21.95	39.95	
PC Gamer	12.95		
PC Magazine (22/44/66 Issues)	25.97	48.95	68.95
PC World	16.95		
Wired	6.00	12.00	17.00

These prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or Money Order. Make payable to Herb Goodman, and mail to:

Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496

Telephone: 561-488-4465, e-mail: *hgoodman@prodigy.net*

Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start. For renewals you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal. As an extra service I will mail a renewal notice about 4 months prior to their expiration date. I carry more than 300 titles at excellent prices — email for prices. 💻

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at *www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html* and pay dues with PayPal.

Dues

	US/CANADA	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	$25	$20	$20
2 Years	$40		
3 Years	$55		$45

Mail this application and your check to:
AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal   ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups

Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, *www.pmug-nj.org*	**Linux Users Group in Princeton:** 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ *http://www.lugip.org*	**New York PC:** 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, *http://www.nypc.org*
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. *www.cesop.org/*	**Brookdale Computer Users Group**: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. *www.bcug.com*	**NJ Macintosh User Group**: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 *http://www.njmug.org*.
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	**Hunterdon Computer Club:** 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. *www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org*, (908) 995-4042.	**NY Amateur Computer Group:** 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. *http://www.nyacc.org*
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. *http://www.morrismicro.com*	**Central Jersey Computer Club**: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	**NJ PC User Group:** 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, *www.njpcug.org*
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. *www.pacsnet.org*	**NJ Computer Club**: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. *http://www.njcc.org*	**Princeton PC Users Group**: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, *http://www.ppcug-nj.org*

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, *bdegroot@ptd.net*. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay $10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.

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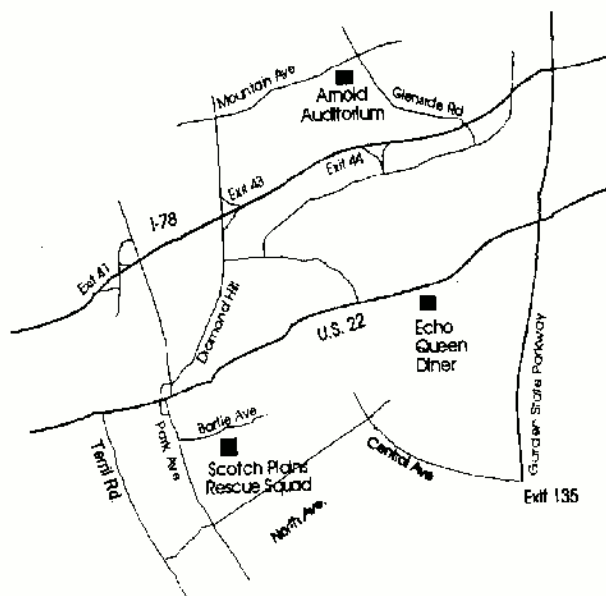*http://www.apcug.net*

Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN

Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey
Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey
Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district.Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)
Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. 🖥